COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 11, No. 13 January 27, 1972

DRUG ABUSE

DoD Officials Hold Press Conference

Breakthrough Reported In Halting Military Drug Abuse

Just back from a year-end worldwide inspection trip of U.S. installations in Europe and Asia to check up on the drug problem, the Pentagon's two leading officials in the drug field are reporting a breakthrough in the effort to halt drug abuse among American military personnel.

Their basic finding boils down to a sharp decline in the number of hard drug users identified in Vietnam, from a high of 5 per cent detected in June, 1971, when urinalysis was first introduced, to a low of 3.2 per cent in December. The over-all drug abuse rate for the entire armed forces was even lower —2.5 per cent—in December.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment) Dr. Richard S. Wilbur, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Drug and Alcohol Abuse) Army Brigadier General John K. Singlaub attributed the sharp decline to a comprehensive program initiated only six months ago by the Department of Defense.

At a Jan. 7 Pentagon news conference, they said the comprehensive program was a three-pronged effort:

—Positive identification of hard drug users by urinalysis testing.

—Grass roots educational approaches to troops to point out the drug pusher is not a desirable person to have in the outfit.

—Improved methods of treatment and rehabilitation to return the drug abuser to duty or society free of drugs.

Urinalysis Is the Key

The basic tool, they indicated, was urinalysis testing. It accomplished the necessary first job of identifying the problem, both in terms of raw numbers to identify the scope of the problem and in terms of identifying individuals who required medical care and removal from units so as not to infect others.

The expansion of urinalysis testing, from a mandatory check of all personnel leaving Southeast Asia to unannounced spot checks of in-country units, was credited with accelerating the progress of the program. Dr. Wilbur and Gen. Singlaub pointed out the spot checks not only provided a better and quicker fix on the problem but also had

(Continued On Page 2)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Race Relations

FESTIVAL PLANNERS. Air Force Academy cadets finalize plans for a "Festival of Black Culture," held at the Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 13-16. The affair was the first black arts festival to be held at any of the Nation's military academies, and included panel discussions on blacks in the Air Force, a fashion show, a film festival and displays by black artists.
(USAF Academy Photo by SSgt. Don McCabe)

HALTING DRUG ABUSE

(Continued From Page 1)

the obvious effect of being a deterrent. Moreover, it was beneficial in the pure medical sense in that it detected hard drug users earlier, when many were just experimenters or users and not addicted to the drug over a long period.

At the same time, Stateside urinalysis testing was inaugurated for all persons being inducted into the armed forces—volunteer and draftee alike—and 1.4 per cent were identified as hard drug users and denied admission into Service. The rationale here, they explained, is that induction of drug abusers would only contribute to the problem and run the greater risk of spreading the infection.

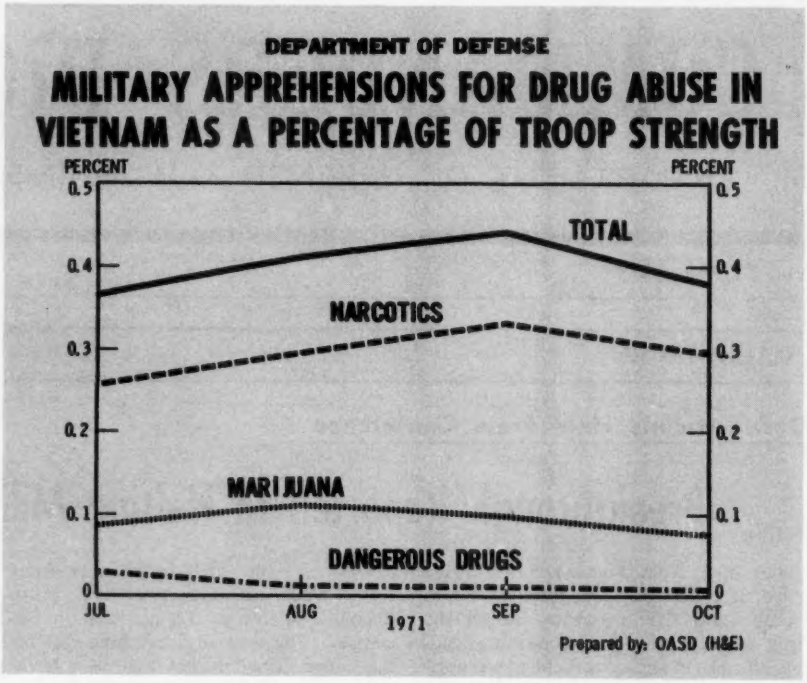
While both officials were more than satisfied with the accuracy of urinalysis and validity of the results, Gen. Singlaub predicted there would be even more unannounced spot checks in the future, implying this kind of testing was the method getting the best results.

Dr. Wilbur took time to stress that the good news is no claim that the drug problem is solved. As he put it, "The total victory would be when nobody is a narcotics user. I would say the Army had done a very good job when it got the statistics for the number of men in the Army on drugs below the number who came into the Service on drugs."

Assistant Secretary Wilbur also cautioned that it is a bold man who claims to have cured alcoholics, heroin users or cigarette smokers. He pointed out, such people can be medically detoxified but that the cure ultimately depends on an individual's will-power to kick the habit.

Drug Education Reaches Troops

Both officials also hailed new initiatives made by Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) to improve the drug education effort by communicating better with the troops. One effort consisted in recruiting a group of young former addicts, working in the drug education field, to come to Vietnam and communicate with their peer groups. At the same time, the military drug educators were educated in a program that sent them to the best colleges and universities in the United States. Teams were formed from these two groups, plus the addition of one Vietnamese, to work directly with men in the field.



Dr. Wilbur said he feels that this effort has paid off handsomely, that no one is turning to drugs because of lack of knowledge, and that everyone is aware of what a drug abuser looks like and how he acts.

The real proof of the pudding, Dr. Wilbur stressed, is a new change of attitude by the ordinary serviceman, a willingness to turn in heroin pushers. And statistics amply back him up. In June, 95 per cent of all court-martial cases on drugs stemmed from military police or criminal investigation division investigation; in December, about 50 per cent of the cases were initiated by soldiers and sailors.

"We have apparently been able to convince soldiers and sailors that someone who pushed heroin is undesirable to have in the barracks or on a ship and ought to be turned in, even it it means turning him in to the Establishment," Dr. Wilbur said.

The doctor cautioned, however, that troops were just turning in heroin pushers, not their buddies shooting drugs or smoking pot.

Detoxification and Rehabilitation

This part of the Department of Defense drug program primarily consisted of expanding the detoxification program into a follow-on rehabilitation program. At the Cam Ranh Bay Drug Treatment Center, which handles SEA returnees, a five-day period of confrontation therapy between psychiatrists and drug users follows the detoxification period. The goal

(Continued On Page 6)

COMMANDERS DIGEST

A publication of the Department of Defense intended to provide official information to commanders and key personnel on matters related to Defense policies and interests, and to create better understanding and teamwork within the Department of Defense.

Published weekly by the American Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD (M&RA). Reproduction of content is authorized.

– Vietnam: Withdrawal And Vietnamization –

President Richard Nixon made an anticipated new troop withdrawal announcement at a White House press conference on Jan. 13. Following the President's statement, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird briefed the press corps on the details of the announcement.

President Nixon's statement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am announcing today the withdrawal of an additional 70,000 [troops] from Vietnam over the next three months. This means that our troop ceiling by May 1 will be down to 69,000. This withdrawal has the approval of the Secretary of Defense, The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Government of South Vietnam. There will be another announcement that will be made before May 1 with regard to a further withdrawal.

"The Secretary of Defense will brief you on the details of the announcement."

Secretary Laird's statement: "Ladies and gentlemen, as the President has stated, the new troop ceiling on May 1 will be 69,000. This is a reduction from the troop ceiling of 549,500 which was in effect at the time President Nixon became President; a reduction of some 87 per cent in the American forces in South Vietnam. We are confident that the Vietnamization program has moved forward with sufficient vigor and progress so that the South Vietnamese are in a position where they can provide for the security responsibilities in-country that are theirs."

Is Vietnamization succeeding?

U.S. Withdrawal: Since President Richard Nixon has been in office, encouraging progress in the military phase of Vietnamization has enabled the U.S. to withdraw more than two-thirds of its military personnel from South Vietnam—from an authorized ceiling in 1969 of 549,500, to 158,300 at the end of 1971. On Jan. 13, the President announced that the U.S. ceiling will be down to 69,000 by May, 1972. It is to be regretted that these withdrawals have not been accompanied by reciprocal action by North Vietnam.

Other Free-World Withdrawals: Thailand has already withdrawn half of its 11,000-man force and expects to withdraw the rest of its combat forces by February, 1972. The Republic of Korea is withdrawing an initial increment of 10,000 men between December, 1971, and June, 1972. All Austrialian and New Zealand combat forces will be out of Vietnam this year. Some training and advisory detachments will remain.

Vietnamization: Military

Major emphasis during 1971 has been on completion of Phase I of Vietnamization; i.e., improving the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) to the point where they can defend themselves against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese as we withdraw. This phase has included raising the RVNAF force level to 1.1 million; activating new units; modernizing and improving training; and providing logistical help.

The RVNAF has now assumed all of the ground combat missions, with U.S. forces relegated to support and self-defense roles.

The Vietnamese Navy has increased its strength to 37,000 men and now conducts over 600 sea, river, and coastal missions daily, leaving the U.S. Navy in a solely advisory effort.

The Vietnamese Air Force is now flying over one-half of all tactical in-country missions; its sorties are up 40 per cent from a year ago, while U.S. Air Force sorties are down 45 per cent from 1970.

In 1972, U.S. efforts will be concentrated on Phase II of Vietnamization—qualitative improvements in RVNAF leadership, training, and morale, and an accelerated development of RVNAF logistical capabilities. Some reductions on over-all size of standing forces may be possible.

(Continued on Page 7)

U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

	As of 13 Jan 72	As of 6 Jan 72
Army	112,900	117,300
Navy	7,500	7,800
Marines	500	500
Air Force	27,100	28,300
Coast Guard	100	100
TOTAL	148,100	154,000
Free World Forces	51,800	53,200

In addition, approximately 13,000 Navy personnel with 7th Fleet forces are aboard ships operating off the coast of Vietnam but are not included in the U.S. strength-in-country figures.

HALTING DRUG ABUSE

(Continued From Page 1)

the obvious effect of being a deterrent. Moreover, it was beneficial in the pure medical sense in that it detected hard drug users earlier, when many were just experimenters or users and not addicted to the drug over a long period.

At the same time, Stateside urinalysis testing was inaugurated for all persons being inducted into the armed forces—volunteer and draftee alike—and 1.4 per cent were identified as hard drug users and denied admission into Service. The rationale here, they explained, is that induction of drug abusers would only contribute to the problem and run the greater risk of spreading the infection.

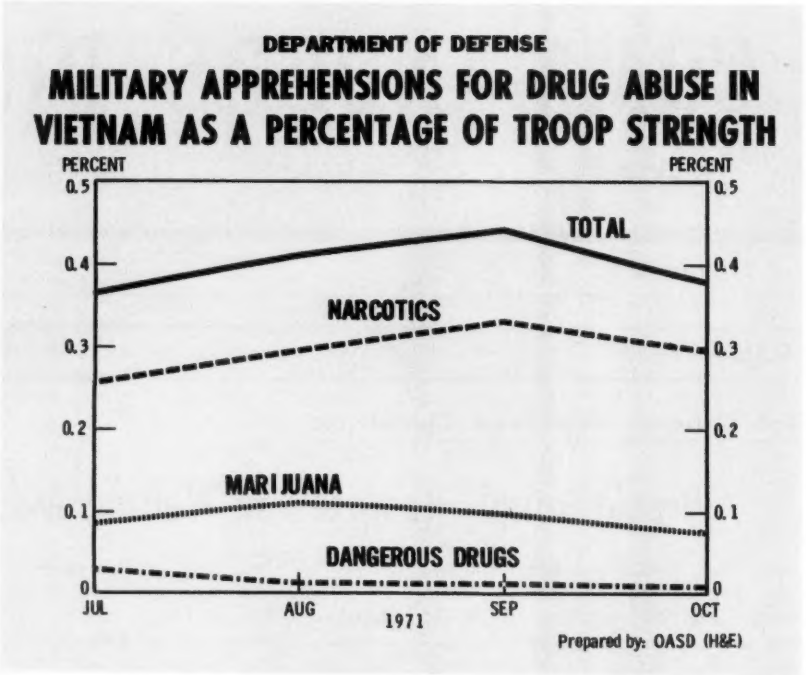
While both officials were more than satisfied with the accuracy of urinalysis and validity of the results, Gen. Singlaub predicted there would be even more unannounced spot checks in the future, implying this kind of testing was the method getting the best results.

Dr. Wilbur took time to stress that the good news is no claim that the drug problem is solved. As he put it, "The total victory would be when nobody is a narcotics user. I would say the Army had done a very good job when it got the statistics for the number of men in the Army on drugs below the number who came into the Service on drugs."

Assistant Secretary Wilbur also cautioned that it is a bold man who claims to have cured alcoholics, heroin users or cigarette smokers. He pointed out, such people can be medically detoxified but that the cure ultimately depends on an individual's will-power to kick the habit.

Drug Education Reaches Troops

Both officials also hailed new initiatives made by Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) to improve the drug education effort by communicating better with the troops. One effort consisted in recruiting a group of young former addicts, working in the drug education field, to come to Vietnam and communicate with their peer groups. At the same time, the military drug educators were educated in a program that sent them to the best colleges and universities in the United States. Teams were formed from these two groups, plus the addition of one Vietnamese, to work directly with men in the field.



Dr. Wilbur said he feels that this effort has paid off handsomely, that no one is turning to drugs because of lack of knowledge, and that everyone is aware of what a drug abuser looks like and how he acts.

The real proof of the pudding, Dr. Wilbur stressed, is a new change of attitude by the ordinary serviceman, a willingness to turn in heroin pushers. And statistics amply back him up. In June, 95 per cent of all court-martial cases on drugs stemmed from military police or criminal investigation division investigation; in December, about 50 per cent of the cases were initiated by soldiers and sailors.

"We have apparently been able to convince soldiers and sailors that someone who pushed heroin is undesirable to have in the barracks or on a ship and ought to be turned in, even it it means turning him in to the Establishment," Dr. Wilbur said.

The doctor cautioned, however, that troops were just turning in heroin pushers, not their buddies shooting drugs or smoking pot.

Detoxification and Rehabilitation

This part of the Department of Defense drug program primarily consisted of expanding the detoxification program into a follow-on rehabilitation program. At the Cam Ranh Bay Drug Treatment Center, which handles SEA returnees, a five-day period of confrontation therapy between psychiatrists and drug users follows the detoxification period. The goal

(Continued On Page 6)

COMMANDERS DIGEST

A publication of the Department of Defense intended to provide official information to commanders and key personnel on matters related to Defense policies and interests, and to create better understanding and teamwork within the Department of Defense.

Published weekly by the American Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD (M&RA). Reproduction of content is authorized.

– Vietnam: Withdrawal And Vietnamization –

President Richard Nixon made an anticipated new troop withdrawal announcement at a White House press conference on Jan. 13. Following the President's statement, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird briefed the press corps on the details of the announcement.

President Nixon's statement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am announcing today the withdrawal of an additional 70,000 [troops] from Vietnam over the next three months. This means that our troop ceiling by May 1 will be down to 69,000. This withdrawal has the approval of the Secretary of Defense, The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Government of South Vietnam. There will be another announcement that will be made before May 1 with regard to a further withdrawal.

"The Secretary of Defense will brief you on the details of the announcement."

Secretary Laird's statement: "Ladies and gentlemen, as the President has stated, the new troop ceiling on May 1 will be 69,000. This is a reduction from the troop ceiling of 549,500 which was in effect at the time President Nixon became President; a reduction of some 87 per cent in the American forces in South Vietnam. We are confident that the Vietnamization program has moved forward with sufficient vigor and progress so that the South Vietnamese are in a position where they can provide for the security responsibilities in-country that are theirs."

Is Vietnamization succeeding?

U.S. Withdrawal: Since President Richard Nixon has been in office, encouraging progress in the military phase of Vietnamization has enabled the U.S. to withdraw more than two-thirds of its military personnel from South Vietnam—from an authorized ceiling in 1969 of 549,500, to 158,300 at the end of 1971. On Jan. 13, the President announced that the U.S. ceiling will be down to 69,000 by May, 1972. It is to be regretted that these withdrawals have not been accompanied by reciprocal action by North Vietnam.

Other Free-World Withdrawals: Thailand has already withdrawn half of its 11,000-man force and expects to withdraw the rest of its combat forces by February, 1972. The Republic of Korea is withdrawing an initial increment of 10,000 men between December, 1971, and June, 1972. All Australian and New Zealand combat forces will be out of Vietnam this year. Some training and advisory detachments will remain.

Vietnamization: Military

Major emphasis during 1971 has been on completion of Phase I of Vietnamization; i.e., improving the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) to the point where they can defend themselves against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese as we withdraw. This phase has included raising the RVNAF force level to 1.1 million; activating new units; modernizing and improving training; and providing logistical help.

The RVNAF has now assumed all of the ground combat missions, with U.S. forces relegated to support and self-defense roles.

The Vietnamese Navy has increased its strength to 37,000 men and now conducts over 600 sea, river, and coastal missions daily, leaving the U.S. Navy in a solely advisory effort.

The Vietnamese Air Force is now flying over one-half of all tactical in-country missions; its sorties are up 40 per cent from a year ago, while U.S. Air Force sorties are down 45 per cent from 1970.

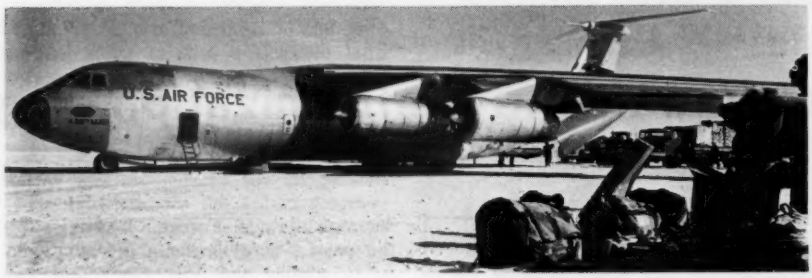
In 1972, U.S. efforts will be concentrated on Phase II of Vietnamization—qualitative improvements in RVNAF leadership, training, and morale, and an accelerated development of RVNAF logistical capabilities. Some reductions on over-all size of standing forces may be possible.

(Continued on Page 7)

U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

	As of 13 Jan 72	As of 6 Jan 72
Army	112,900	117,300
Navy	7,500	7,800
Marines	500	500
Air Force	27,100	28,300
Coast Guard	100	100
TOTAL	148,100	154,000
Free World Forces	51,800	53,200

In addition, approximately 13,000 Navy personnel with 7th Fleet forces are aboard ships operating off the coast of Vietnam but are not included in the U.S. strength-in-country figures.



FLIGHTS ARE LONG. Success of the U.S. Antarctic program is due largely to aircraft—both Navy and Air Force. They are a link between "Deep Freeze" advance headquarters at Christchurch, New Zealand, and Williams Field at McMurdo Station—a flight of 2,500 miles, which is equivalent to a trans-Atlantic crossing.

SHIPS CARRY THE BIG LOADS. The big-bulk need, fuel, is brought by icebreakers, but most of it is delivered by ships of the Military Sea Transport Service. About six million gallons of aviation, diesel and automotive fuels are delivered to the U.S. stations each summer.
(All Official U.S. Navy Photos)

Military Services And U.S. Coast Guard Aid To Further Environmental Knowledge

ANTARCTICA — 'A CONTINENT OF PEACE'

It was in 1926 that Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd Jr., USN, made man's historic flight over the North Pole. Then on Nov. 29, 1929, as commander of the first Antarctic expedition, he made man's first flight over the South Pole. When the naval pioneer died in 1957, a dozen nations were cooperatively engaged in International Geophysical Year (IGY) research in Antarctica, partially fulfilling Adm. Byrd's vision of that area "at the bottom of the world" as a "continent of peace."

Today, the U.S. Navy is well prepared to support scientific projects in Antarctica, but it does not have a monopoly on the capabilities required to carry out the entire job. As a result, when Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson assigned the backup role to the Navy in 1954, he authorized that Service to request assistance from the Army, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, and other U.S. Government agencies when it was needed.

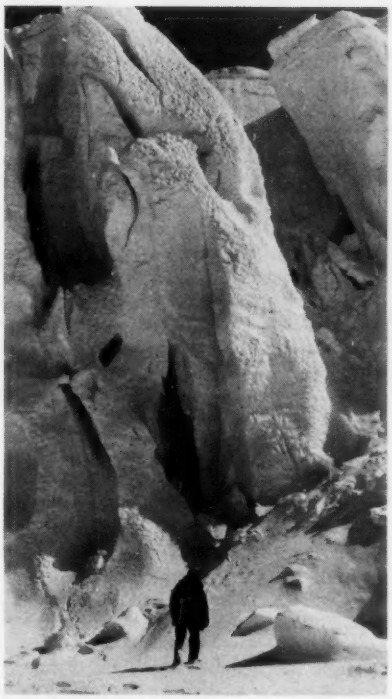
The Antarctic program of the IGY, from July 1, 1957, to Dec. 31, 1958, was so successful that the scientists and their sponsoring governments desired to put it on a permanent footing.

In order to provide for continuing cooperation, the scientists established an international organization, now called the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

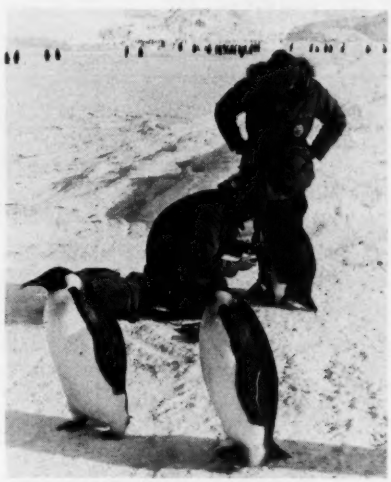
Another outgrowth of the IGY was the Antarctic Treaty of 1959, which provided that the Antarctic should be used for peaceful purposes only and that territorial claims there would be frozen as of the date the treaty went into effect, which was June 23, 1961.

Although all of the military services are represented in the Antarctic, they are on peaceful missions, helping to further man's knowledge of his environment.

HELICOPTERS ARE IMPORTANT. Choppers carry men and supplies and aid in scientific field work. All shore-based aircraft are operated by Antarctic Development Squadron Six (VXE-6).



WHITE WORLD. A member of a scientific team is dwarfed by giant Antarctic ice formations.



HUMAN INTRUDERS. Two technicians, taking scientific readings, are seemingly ignored by two aloof penguins.

ARMED FORCES INITIATIVES

DOMESTIC ACTION

Air Force parachute harnesses, normally used to get people down on their feet, were used recently to get an accident victim up on his feet. Physical therapists at St. Mary's Hospital in Salina, Kans., found that an accident victim was not responding to the usual treatments. The stumped therapists called nearby Richards-Gebaur AFB for assistance in obtaining a parachute harness. A former physical therapy technician, Airman First Class David A. Loguda, obtained the harness and assisted in its installation from ceiling pulleys at the hospital. The patient was placed in the harness and minutes later he was up on his feet for the first time since the accident occurred several months ago.

HUMAN GOALS

A 12-day seminar in race relations was held at Berchtesgaden, Germany recently. Its purpose: to establish a core curriculum and training guide to be used by race relations instructors at bases throughout U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE). Seminars at most air bases in USAFE will not begin until at least February. Prior to that time, USAFE will conduct pilot programs at four bases to evaluate the program as established by the recent seminar. The program is helping to bring racial attitudes of supervisory personnel into line with Department of Defense and U.S. Air Force policy.

Project Transition, long a successful program in the United States, has started in Europe for U.S. Army personnel. Representatives of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Department of Labor, and Veterans Administration recently toured U.S. Army, Europe, to brief soldiers on employment and education opportunities and benefits. After the initial briefings, counseling will become a regular activity handled by education center supervisors. The counseling, however, will be only a temporary measure until such time as permanent Project Transition personnel can take over.

RECRUITING/RETENTION

The Naval Air Station at North Island, Calif., has two four-story Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) that feature the best in modern comforts. Mod paintings and posters adorn many of the walls. Most of "Ouellet Hall" is divided into four-man rooms; the other barracks—"McCants Hall"—has mostly two-man rooms for the more than 1,500 personnel. There are attractive lounges on each floor of the two BEQs and a lounge for female guests on the ground floor of Ouellet Hall. The grounds surrounding the barracks are attractively landscaped with an adjoining parking lot capable of accommodating 300 vehicles.

DRUG ABUSE

Progress Hall, a Drug Treatment Center at Fort Sill, Okla., operates on a 24-hour schedule to provide a treatment center for individuals who voluntarily seek help. It is also a facility for in-resident treatment of drug-dependent personnel referred from Reynolds Army Hospital. As of Dec. 1, the center had conducted approximately 1,700 hours of therapy sessions. During the first three months of its existence, Progress Hall treated 195 individuals and further advised others who had called for help or came to "crash" in an emergency.

HALTING DRUG ABUSE

(Continued From Page 2)

is to convince drug users that they have a problem and that they must accept responsibility for their own actions.

Another dimension was added to the detoxification and rehabilitation effort because of the unannounced urinalysis spot checks. The basic gain was time, Dr. Wilbur and Gen. Singlaub indicated. Once an individual, who is still in-country, is detected, he is pulled out of his unit and sent to a center for 14 days of treatment and an initial exposure to the rehabilitation process. When he returns to duty, he must report for periodic treatment and undergo the basic rehabilitation process at his unit.

Meanwhile, Dr. Wilbur and Gen. Singlaub said that legislation is before the Congress which would allow for extending the terms of service of drug users for 30 days to facilitate further treatment and rehabilitation before being returned to civilian life and referral, if necessary, to hospitals for further treatment.

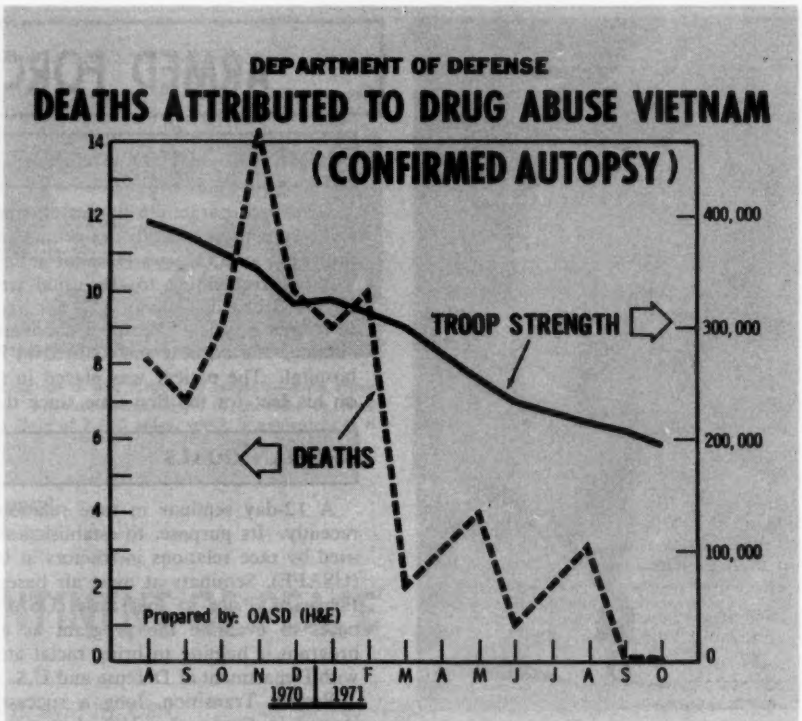
Proposed Legislation

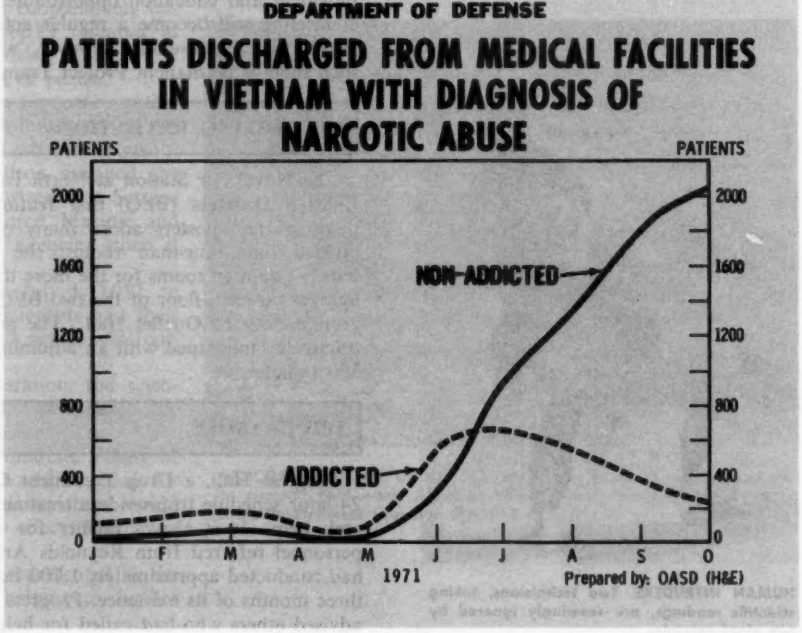
They said that Congress has promised to take up this proposed legislation as soon as possible when it reconvened in January.

While most of their report dealt with the drug problem in SEA, the two officials also checked into the problem in Europe. They found heroin use low, only about one-half of one per cent, and this low rate only because the problem there was hashish. Since hashish cannot be detected by urinalysis testing and is not classified as a hard narcotic, the two men did not downgrade the potential threat inasmuch as hashish-users may be psychologically susceptible later to experiment with hard drugs.

The main thrust of the Dr. Wilbur-Gen. Singlaub news conference was that of good news—a breakthrough in the drug scene.

"I think the big green machine has done some things right, and I think we ought to tell you about it because the Army has succeeded in a social area, where, to my knowledge, civilians have never succeeded, and that's by reversing a heroin epidemic within the time of a year of its beginning . . ." Dr. Wilbur told the press.





VIETNAM WITHDRAWALS

(Continued From Page 3)

Vietnamization: Economic

Complementing the military phase of Vietnamization, the economic phase is designed to:

—Maintain economic stability and increase local production of goods;

—Reduce the economic and social consequences of the war through the provision of food, shelter, and resettlement for refugees, as well as medical assistance for civilian war casualties;

—Create a more secure and prosperous environment in the countryside so that political stability and economic growth may develop;

—Plan for the postwar period.

Progress in this phase of Vietnamization has been mixed; inflation remains a threat, although reform measures instituted in October, 1970, have held the rate of inflation to 10 per cent. The black market remains a problem, and tax collection is not adequately pursued. On the plus side, however, joint U.S.-Vietnamese efforts are underway to boost agricultural production, implement a sweeping land reform program, expand existing industry and develop new plants, and broaden a whole range of health and educational services. Under the Land-to-the-Tiller program, more than 900,000 acres of rice land have been distributed free to some 300,000 farmers. Ultimately some 800,000 former tenant farmers will own the land they farm.

This material may be reproduced locally for further distribution.

DOMESTIC ACTION

International Aid Helps Save A Life

A HC-130 Hercules rescue aircraft from Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire, recently assisted in the conclusion of a successful surgical operation. Dr. Biarni Hannesson, an Icelandic neurosurgeon, needed special clamps for a serious operation to isolate a disease of the blood vessels that threatened the life of an Icelandic citizen.

Within 13 hours of Dr. Hannesson's appeal to a friend in the U.S., the HC-130 landed in Iceland with the surgical clamps.

U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOUTH VIETNAM

(Official Defense Department In-Country Strength Figures*)

Date	Army	Navy	USAF	USMC	USCG	Total
Between 1954 and 1960—U.S. Military Strenth averaged about 650 advisors.						
31 Dec., 1960	800	15	68	2		About 900
31 Dec., 1961	2,100	100	1,000	5		3,200
31 Dec., 1962	7,900	500	2,400	500		11,300
31 Dec., 1963	10,100	800	4,600	800		16,300
31 Dec., 1964	14,700	1,100	6,600	900		23,300
31 Dec., 1965	116,800	8,400	20,600	38,200	300	184,300
31 Dec., 1966	239,400	23,300	52,900	69,200	500	385,300
31 Dec., 1967	319,500	31,700	55,900	78,200	500	485,600
31 Dec., 1968	359,800	36,100	58,400	81,400	400	536,100
31 Jan., 1969	365,600	35,700	59,300	81,400	400	542,400
28 Feb	364,100	35,600	59,900	80,700	500	540,800
31 Mar	361,500	35,500	60,800	79,900	500	538,200
30 Apr	363,300	36,500	61,400	81,800	400	543,400
31 May	361,300	35,800	61,200	81,700	400	540,400
30 Jun	360,500	35,800	60,500	81,500	400	538,700
31 Jul	362,200	35,500	60,400	79,400	400	537,900
31 Aug	342,600	34,200	59,900	72,400	500	509,600
30 Sep	345,400	33,700	59,700	71,200	500	510,500
31 Oct	338,700	33,500	58,800	64,400	500	495,900
30 Nov	331,400	31,400	58,700	56,800	500	478,800
31 Dec	331,100	30,200	58,400	55,100	400	475,200
31 Jan., 1970	331,200	29,700	57,400	53,800	400	472,500
28 Feb	332,000	29,000	55,500	50,200	300	467,000
31 Mar	315,800	28,600	53,800	43,600	300	427,600
30 Apr	305,100	28,300	52,200	41,700	300	427,600
31 May	306,900	27,700	51,400	41,600	200	427,800
30 Jun	298,600	25,700	50,500	39,900	200	414,900
31 Jul	293,600	22,600	48,200	39,300	200	403,900
31 Aug	294,300	22,200	47,900	35,200	100	399,700
30 Sep	294,100	19,500	46,700	30,000	100	390,400
31 Oct	286,400	17,400	44,100	25,000	100	373,000
30 Nov	268,900	16,900	43,900	25,300	100	355,100
31 Dec	249,600	16,700	43,100	25,100	100	334,600
31 Jan., 1971	251,500	17,000	42,200	24,900	100	335,700
28 Feb	245,000	16,700	40,200	22,500	100	324,500
31 Mar	228,300	14,800	39,800	18,900	100	301,900
30 Apr	207,800	11,100	38,900	12,200	100	270,100
31 May	197,400	10,900	37,200	4,700	100	250,200
30 Jun	190,500	10,700	37,400	500	100	239,200
31 Jul	178,400	10,000	36,100	500	100	225,100
31 Aug	170,100	10,500	34,700	500	100	215,900
30 Sep	167,300	10,300	34,900	500	100	213,100
31 Oct	153,600	9,900	32,100	600	100	196,300
30 Nov	137,500	9,700	30,700	600	100	178,600
31 Dec	119,600	7,800	28,800	500	100	157,000P

P—Preliminary

(January 12, 1972)

(* In-country strength figures lag behind authorized in-country troop ceilings. Reference is made to troop "ceiling" figures given in Page 3 story.)

HALTING DRUG ABUSE

(Continued From Page 2)

is to convince drug users that they have a problem and that they must accept responsibility for their own actions.

Another dimension was added to the detoxification and rehabilitation effort because of the unannounced urinalysis spot checks. The basic gain was time, Dr. Wilbur and Gen. Singlaub indicated. Once an individual, who is still in-country, is detected, he is pulled out of his unit and sent to a center for 14 days of treatment and an initial exposure to the rehabilitation process. When he returns to duty, he must report for periodic treatment and undergo the basic rehabilitation process at his unit.

Meanwhile, Dr. Wilbur and Gen. Singlaub said that legislation is before the Congress which would allow for extending the terms of service of drug users for 30 days to facilitate further treatment and rehabilitation before being returned to civilian life and referral, if necessary, to hospitals for further treatment.

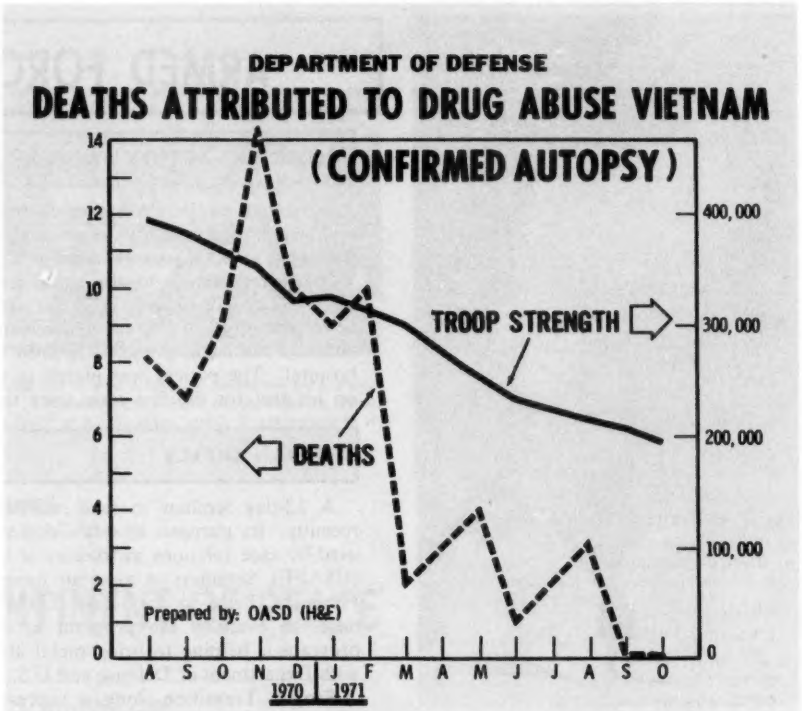
Proposed Legislation

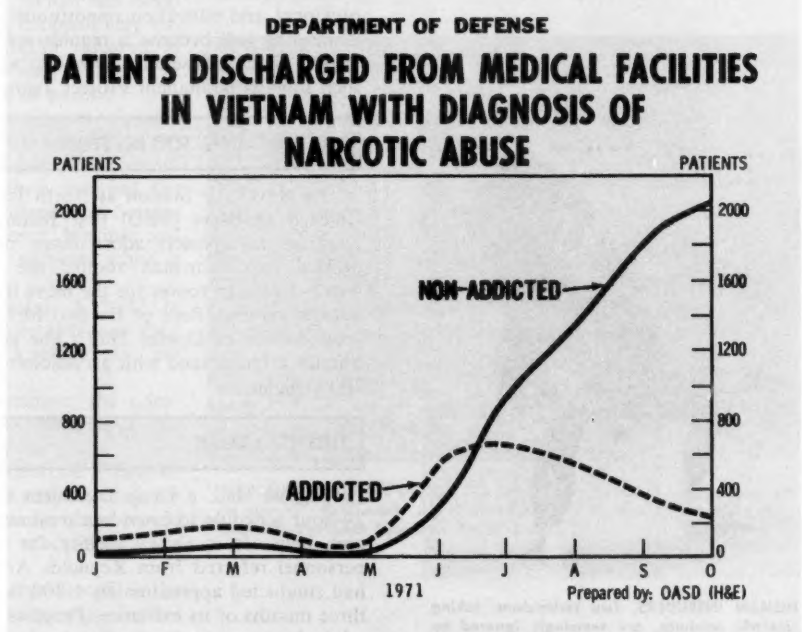
They said that Congress has promised to take up this proposed legislation as soon as possible when it reconvened in January.

While most of their report dealt with the drug problem in SEA, the two officials also checked into the problem in Europe. They found heroin use low, only about one-half of one per cent, and this low rate only because the problem there was hashish. Since hashish cannot be detected by urinalysis testing and is not classified as a hard narcotic, the two men did not downgrade the potential threat inasmuch as hashish-users may be psychologically susceptible later to experiment with hard drugs.

The main thrust of the Dr. Wilbur-Gen. Singlaub news conference was that of good news—a breakthrough in the drug scene.

"I think the big green machine has done some things right, and I think we ought to tell you about it because the Army has succeeded in a social area, where, to my knowledge, civilians have never succeeded, and that's by reversing a heroin epidemic within the time of a year of its beginning . . ." Dr. Wilbur told the press.





VIETNAM WITHDRAWALS

(Continued From Page 3)

Vietnamization: Economic

Complementing the military phase of Vietnamization, the economic phase is designed to:

—Maintain economic stability and increase local production of goods;

—Reduce the economic and social consequences of the war through the provision of food, shelter, and resettlement for refugees, as well as medical assistance for civilian war casualties;

—Create a more secure and prosperous environment in the countryside so that political stability and economic growth may develop;

—Plan for the postwar period.

Progress in this phase of Vietnamization has been mixed; inflation remains a threat, although reform measures instituted in October, 1970, have held the rate of inflation to 10 per cent. The black market remains a problem, and tax collection is not adequately pursued. On the plus side, however, joint U.S.-Vietnamese efforts are underway to boost agricultural production, implement a sweeping land reform program, expand existing industry and develop new plants, and broaden a whole range of health and educational services. Under the Land-to-the-Tiller program, more than 900,000 acres of rice land have been distributed free to some 300,000 farmers. Ultimately some 800,000 former tenant farmers will own the land they farm.

This material may be reproduced locally for further distribution.

DOMESTIC ACTION

International Aid Helps Save A Life

A HC-130 Hercules rescue aircraft from Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire, recently assisted in the conclusion of a successful surgical operation. Dr. Biarni Hannesson, an Icelandic neurosurgeon, needed special clamps for a serious operation to isolate a disease of the blood vessels that threatened the life of an Icelandic citizen.

Within 13 hours of Dr. Hannesson's appeal to a friend in the U.S., the HC-130 landed in Iceland with the surgical clamps.

U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOUTH VIETNAM

(Official Defense Department In-Country Strength Figures*)

Date	Army	Navy	USAF	USMC	USCG	Total
Between 1954 and 1960—U.S. Military Strenth averaged about 650 advisors.						
31 Dec., 1960	800	15	68	2		About 900
31 Dec., 1961	2,100	100	1,000	5		3,200
31 Dec., 1962	7,900	500	2,400	500		11,300
31 Dec., 1963	10,100	800	4,600	800		16,300
31 Dec., 1964	14,700	1,100	6,600	900		23,300
31 Dec., 1965	116,800	8,400	20,600	38,200	300	184,300
31 Dec., 1966	239,400	23,300	52,900	69,200	500	385,300
31 Dec., 1967	319,500	31,700	55,900	78,200	500	485,600
31 Dec., 1968	359,800	36,100	58,400	81,400	400	536,100
31 Jan., 1969	365,600	35,700	59,300	81,400	400	542,400
28 Feb	364,100	35,600	59,900	80,700	500	540,800
31 Mar	361,500	35,500	60,800	79,900	500	538,200
30 Apr	363,300	36,500	61,400	81,800	400	543,400
31 May	361,300	35,800	61,200	81,700	400	540,400
30 Jun	360,500	35,800	60,500	81,500	400	538,700
31 Jul	362,200	35,500	60,400	79,400	400	537,900
31 Aug	342,600	34,200	59,900	72,400	500	509,600
30 Sep	345,400	33,700	59,700	71,200	500	510,500
31 Oct	338,700	33,500	58,800	64,400	500	495,900
30 Nov	331,400	31,400	58,700	56,800	500	478,800
31 Dec	331,100	30,200	58,400	55,100	400	475,200
31 Jan., 1970	331,200	29,700	57,400	53,800	400	472,500
28 Feb	332,000	29,000	55,500	50,200	300	467,000
31 Mar	315,800	28,600	53,800	43,600	300	427,600
30 Apr	305,100	28,300	52,200	41,700	300	427,600
31 May	306,900	27,700	51,400	41,600	200	427,800
30 Jun	298,600	25,700	50,500	39,900	200	414,900
31 Jul	293,600	22,600	48,200	39,300	200	403,900
31 Aug	294,300	22,200	47,900	35,200	100	399,700
30 Sep	294,100	19,500	46,700	30,000	100	390,400
31 Oct	286,400	17,400	44,100	25,000	100	373,000
30 Nov	268,900	16,900	43,900	25,300	100	355,100
31 Dec	249,600	16,700	43,100	25,100	100	334,600
31 Jan., 1971	251,500	17,000	42,200	24,900	100	335,700
28 Feb	245,000	16,700	40,200	22,500	100	324,500
31 Mar	228,300	14,800	39,800	18,900	100	301,900
30 Apr	207,800	11,100	38,900	12,200	100	270,100
31 May	197,400	10,900	37,200	4,700	100	250,200
30 Jun	190,500	10,700	37,400	500	100	239,200
31 Jul	178,400	10,000	36,100	500	100	225,100
31 Aug	170,100	10,500	34,700	500	100	215,900
30 Sep	167,300	10,300	34,900	500	100	213,100
31 Oct	153,600	9,900	32,100	600	100	196,300
30 Nov	137,500	9,700	30,700	600	100	178,600
31 Dec	119,600	7,800	28,800	500	100	157,000P

P—Preliminary **(January 12, 1972)**

(* In-country strength figures lag behind authorized in-country troop ceilings. Reference is made to troop "ceiling" figures given in Page 3 story.)

RESEARCH/ENGINEERING

Dr. Rechtin Is Named To Telecommunications

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has named Dr. Eberhardt Rechtin as acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications).

Dr. Rechtin, 46, has been Principal Deputy Director of Defense Research and Engineering since December, 1970, and had previously served as Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). Dr. Rechtin's duties as acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) will be in addition to his present duties as Principal Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering.

The new Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) was established by Department of Defense Directive 5135.1, dated January 11, 1972. The directive upgrades the position from Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Telecommunications to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Telecommunications. President Richard Nixon signed Public Law 92-215 on Dec. 22, 1971, increasing the number of authorized Assistant Secretaries of Defense from eight to nine.

DR. RECHTIN

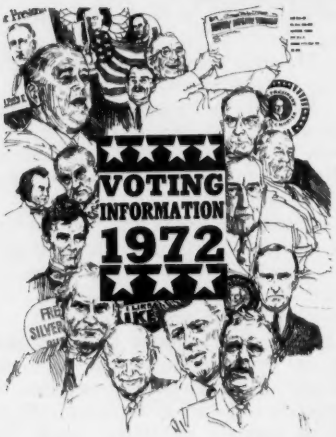
The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) is the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense on telecommunications matters, including the National Communications System, the World-Wide Military Command and Control System, and the National Military Command System.

Establishment of an Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Telecommunications) was a recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Defense Panel.

Dr. Rechtin is a member of the National Academy of Engineers.

CITIZENSHIP: Voting

Each Commander Is Responsible For THE VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



by ROGER T. KELLEY
Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

This year, each and every commander in the armed forces will have an additional responsibility added to those he or she already has. This is an election year and Americans will select their choice of candidates at all levels, from the President of the United States down to county and local officials. This new dimension of responsibility is based on the fact that this year more than 675,000 new voters serving in the armed forces will be able to cast ballots. Throughout the Nation there will be 11 million new voters added to the electorate as a result of the passage of the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution which lowered the voting age to 18 years.

Commanders at all levels must insure that military and civilian personnel of the armed forces are informed of their right to vote and assisted in obtaining information and ballots from their respective States. This responsibility must include spouses of these individuals and their dependents, if eligible. Essential voting information will be provided on a continuing basis through the Military Departments for distribution worldwide. The pamphlet, *Voting Information—1972*, was distributed in January to commanders and voting counselors.

There are several "musts" for each commander:

—Review and be familiar with Service regulations covering the voting assistance program.

—Insure that the Federal Post Card Application for Absentee Ballot (FPCA) is on hand in time for voters to participate in primary elections in each State as well as in the general election in November.

—In the general election specifically, an FPCA must be hand-delivered to every individual by Aug. 15, 1972, if the unit is overseas, and by Sept. 15, 1972, if the unit is in the United States.

Voting assistance to the men and women serving in our armed forces must be given the highest priority by all commanders in 1972.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $2.00 additional for foreign mailing.
☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 483-783/V-29